

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 10/786,171 Confirmation No. : 9141
First Named Inventor : Robert FROST
Filed : February 26, 2004
TC/A.U. : 1744
Examiner : Kevin Joyner

Docket No. : 029082.53185US
Customer No. : 23911

Title : Process for Operating a Packaging Transport System

RESPONSE TO ELECTION/RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Mail Stop AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the restriction requirement of June 12, 2007, the Applicants respectfully elect Group I, claims 1, 3, 5, 7-9, 13, 15, 17-19, 22-25, 27, 30, 33, 35, 40 and 46, with traverse.

The pending Election/restriction Requirement divides the claims into a group drawn to a process for operating a transport system, and a group drawn to a process for insertion of syringes.

The Applicant respectfully submits that both of these groups are directed to the core of the invention, a process in which a gas permeable packaging is sterilized on its outside without significant amounts of hydrogen peroxide steam being introduced in the interior of the packaging. This is the result of the use of a vapor mix of water steam and hydrogen peroxide steam, which cannot

penetrate into the interior of the packaging because the vapor mix immediately condenses upon contact with the gas permeable packaging. This is unlike known sterilization processes with sterilization gases which cannot be effectively excluded from the packaging interior.

Because both Group I and Group II share the core of the invention (abruptly applying a water steam/hydrogen peroxide steam vapor mix as a condensate layer on the outside of a packaging and then re-evacuating the chamber to remove the condensate later), it makes no difference if or how many packagings are provided. Accordingly, because a single search should address all the pending claims, reconsideration and withdrawal of the pending Election/Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

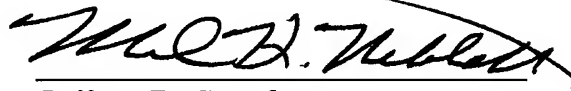
If there are any questions regarding this response or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit

Account No. 05-1323 (Docket # 029082.53185US).

Respectfully submitted,

July 11, 2007

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mark H. Neblett", written over a horizontal line.

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